

Dear Sirs,

I have been a flight attendant for Alaska Airlines for 26 years and I strongly object to the proposed use of cell phones in flight. When we had the in-flight phones installed on the planes it was bad enough but they were expensive and not used very much. If personal phones were allowed, even at an increased cost, it would be a potential intrusion to everybody's enjoyment of their flight.

We require headphones to be used on all electronic devices with sound so as not to annoy the surrounding passengers and it is already bad enough when two or three people chat at an elevated sound level, but listening to a one-sided conversation from someone who can't keep their voice down would be very uncomfortable.

My feeling is that just because they exist, you don't have to be able to use them on a plane. Are people really that important that they can't stay off the phone for a few hours? With the advent of such items as the Blackberry, why don't we just allow an internet connection for these phones that don't require them to disrupt others with their private business.

I have heard arguments that they would be a safety item in the event of an emergency. Well from what I can tell, they have already been used that way and we all know when that would be appropriate, but I also feel that they could be used for the wrong reasons and I don't believe that we should open up the skies to another avenue for terrorists to communicate without being detected.

I love my cell phone and wouldn't want to ever live without it but I don't believe that the friendly skies are the place to use them. I don't even like them being used on taxi in as they are now. Funny how people can't wait an extra 5 minutes to be in contact.

Please think long and hard before allow the use of cell phones in-flight. Think of yourself sitting next to some blow-hard that doesn't stop talking into his phone for an entire flight. How much fun do you think he would be to sit next to and how relaxed would you be when you got to your destination? Yes, we have people that already talk loudly though a flight, and we can never stop that because it is human nature, but cell phones aren't.

In conclusion, I once again state that I am strongly against the use of cell phones in-flight.

Sincerely,
Karen J. Corkins